



FEB 18 2005

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Veterinary
Services

National Center for
Import/ Export

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Subject: BSE Minimal-Risk Regions and the Importation of Live Animals

To: Accredited Veterinarians or Other Interested Parties

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) published a final rule on January 4, 2005, entitled "Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy; Minimal-Risk Regions and Importation of Commodities." The final rule becomes effective on March 7, 2005. As a result of this publication, regulations are now in place to govern the importation of certain live cattle, bison, sheep, and goats into the United States from Canada – including cattle, bison, sheep, and goats that are transported directly to a single feedlot and then to slaughter.

There are several activities in the final rule can only be performed by an accredited veterinarian or a Federal or State veterinary medical officer. These activities are as follows:

- 1) Removal of the government seals on vehicles transporting feeder cattle, bison, sheep, or goats from the APHIS port of entry (POE) to a feedlot and completion of VS Form 17-130, "Ruminants Imported to Designated/Approved Feedlots." This form is initiated at the POE by the APHIS port veterinarian to allow feeder cattle, bison, sheep, or goats to be transported directly to a single feedlot (See Attachment A). As indicated on VS Form 17-130, the accredited veterinarian or other designated individual must break the seals, complete items #13 to 18, and return VS Form 17-130 to the POE. The final rule allows this function to be performed by an accredited veterinarian or a State or USDA representative. Alternatively, the accredited veterinarian can designate one of their employees to perform this function.
- 2) Issuance of VS Form 1-27 "Permit for Movement of Restricted Animals." General instructions for the completion of this form can be found in Veterinary Services Memorandum No. 575.14 (See Attachment B). In order to certify a shipment of Canadian cattle, bison, sheep, or goats for movement to slaughter, the accredited veterinarian must review the Canadian health certificates and determine that the cattle or bison are less than 30 months of age, and the sheep or goats are less than 12 months of age.

The vehicle must be sealed, and the seal numbers must be listed under item 15 on VS Form 1-27. Only Canadian animals can be shipped in the sealed vehicle. These Canadian animals will be branded and cannot be mixed with U.S. animals going to slaughter. A copy of the Canadian health certificates must be attached to VS Form 1-27. Because each VS Form 1-27 only has space to include sixteen ear tag numbers, it may be necessary to complete more than one VS Form 1-27 per shipment.



Safeguarding American Agriculture

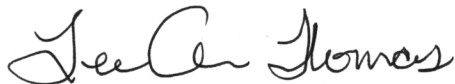
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The shipment must also be accompanied by a copy of the VS Form 17-130 that was issued by the port veterinarian when the animals were imported. This form will be important as a verification that the animals in the shipment were not moved from their destination at import to another location before going directly to slaughter.

These activities are critical in the safeguarding of animal health and the safety of America's food supply. Thank you for your assistance with this matter. If you have further questions about these requirements please contact the Area Veterinarian in Charge in your State. Additional information can also be accessed on our website at www.aphis.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lee Ann Thomas".

Lee Ann Thomas, D.V.M., M.S.
Director, Animals, Organisms and Vectors, and Select Agents
National Center for Import-Export
Technical Trade Services

Enclosures